

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A blank for forming a wrap-around article carrier sleeve comprising a plurality of panels connected end-to-end including first and second end panels at opposite ends of the blank that cooperate to form a bottom of the carrier sleeve, wherein the first end panel includes at least one retainer flap struck from the panel thereby defining an opening in the panel, the retainer flap being joined to the first end panel at a fold line, and wherein the second end panel is configured to underlie the first end panel outside the bottom of the carrier sleeve and includes at least one male supporting tab joined to the second end panel; and wherein the male supporting tab is configured to extend through the opening in the first panel from which the retainer flap is struck, the male supporting tab having a notch formed on one side, the notch being offset from the point at which the male supporting tab is joined to the second end panel and configured to lockingly engage a raised part of the retainer flap within the carrier sleeve when inserted into the opening during formation of the carrier sleeve.
2. The blank of claim 1, wherein a fold line is provided at the point at which the male supporting tab is joined to the second end panel, such that the notch is offset from the fold line.
3. The blank of claim 1, wherein the notch is configured to lockingly engage a raised edge of the retainer flap when the male supporting tab is inserted into the opening during formation of the carrier sleeve.

4. The blank of claim 3, wherein the retainer flap has at least one secondary fold line extending from an edge of the retainer flap not connected to the first panel for facilitating folding of the retainer flap.
5. The blank of claim 4, wherein the retainer flap when raised and folded at the at least one secondary fold line is configured to form an apical edge, and wherein the notch of the male supporting tab is configured to lockingly engage the formed apical edge.
6. The blank of claim 4, wherein each secondary fold line is curved.
7. The blank of claim 1, wherein the notch of the male supporting tab is a first notch and wherein the male supporting tab has a basal notch configured to lockingly engage the first end panel when the male supporting tab is inserted into the opening during formation of the carrier sleeve.
8. The blank of claim 7, wherein the basal notch is formed on a side opposite the side having the first notch.
9. The blank of claim 2, wherein the fold line joining the retainer flap to the first panel is positioned more adjacent an outer side edge of the first panel than the raised part of the retainer flap.
10. The blank of claim 9, wherein the fold line joining the retainer flap to the first panel is positioned adjacent an outer side edge of the first panel, and the raised edge of the retainer flap is oriented inwardly from the outer side edge.

11. The blank of claim 10, wherein two secondary fold lines extend from opposite edges of the retainer flap and generally converge towards the raised edge of the retainer flap such that, when folded at the secondary fold lines, the retainer flap is configured to form an apical edge suitable for locking engagement in the notch.

12. The blank of claim 2, wherein the fold line joining the retainer flap to the first end panel is substantially perpendicular to the fold line joining the male supporting tab to the second end panel.

13. The blank of claim 1, further comprising male and female primary locking elements for locking engagement of the first and second panels in the carrier sleeve.

14. The blank of claim 1, having two male supporting tabs adjacent opposite sides of the second panel and two retainer flaps adjacent opposite sides of the first panel.

15. A wrap-around article carrier sleeve formed from a blank comprising a plurality of panels connected end-to-end including first and second end panels at opposite ends of the blank that cooperate to form a bottom of the carrier sleeve, wherein the first end panel includes at least one retainer flap struck from the panel thereby defining an opening in the panel, the retainer flap being joined to the first end panel at a fold line, and wherein the second end panel is configured to underlie the first end panel outside the bottom of the carrier sleeve and includes at least one male supporting tab joined to the second end panel; and wherein the male supporting tab is configured to extend through the opening in the first panel from which the retainer flap is struck, the male supporting tab having a notch formed

on one side, the notch being offset from the point at which the male supporting tab is joined to the second end panel and configured to lockingly engage a raised part of the retainer flap within the carrier sleeve when inserted into the opening during formation of the carrier sleeve.

16. The carrier sleeve of claim 15, wherein a fold line is provided at the point at which the male supporting tab is joined to the second end panel, such that the notch is offset from the fold line.

17. The carrier sleeve of claim 15, wherein the notch is configured to lockingly engage a raised edge of the retainer flap when the male supporting tab is inserted into the opening during formation of the carrier sleeve.

18. The carrier sleeve of claim 17, wherein the retainer flap has at least one secondary fold line extending from an edge of the retainer flap not connected to the first panel for facilitating folding of the retainer flap.

19. The carrier sleeve of claim 18, wherein the retainer flap when raised and folded at the at least one secondary fold line is configured to form an apical edge, and wherein the notch of the male supporting tab is configured to lockingly engage the formed apical edge.

20. The carrier sleeve of claim 18, wherein each secondary fold line is curved.

21. The carrier sleeve of claim 15, wherein the notch of the male supporting tab is a first notch and wherein the male supporting tab has a basal notch configured to lockingly engage

the first end panel when the male supporting tab is inserted into the opening during formation of the carrier sleeve.

22. The carrier sleeve of claim 21, wherein the basal notch is formed on a side opposite the side having the first notch.

23. The carrier sleeve of claim 16, wherein the fold line joining the retainer flap to the first panel is positioned more adjacent an outer side edge of the first panel than the raised part of the retainer flap.

24. The carrier sleeve of claim 23, wherein the fold line joining the retainer flap to the first panel is positioned adjacent an outer side edge of the first panel, and the raised edge of the retainer flap is oriented inwardly from the outer side edge.

25. The carrier sleeve of claim 24, wherein two secondary fold lines extend from opposite edges of the retainer flap and generally converge towards the raised edge of the retainer flap such that, when folded at the secondary fold lines, the retainer flap is configured to form an apical edge suitable for locking engagement in the notch.

26. The carrier sleeve of claim 16, wherein the fold line joining the retainer flap to the first end panel is substantially perpendicular to the fold line joining the male supporting tab to the second end panel.

27. The carrier sleeve of claim 15, further comprising male and female primary locking elements for locking engagement of the first and second panels in the carrier sleeve.

28. The carrier sleeve of claim 15, having two male supporting tabs adjacent opposite sides of the second panel and two retainer flaps adjacent opposite sides of the first panel.